

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 18, 19, 22, 28, 29, 31, 32, 38, 39, 42, 53-56 and 65-68 are pending in the application and stand rejected, variously, under 35 U.S.C. §112, 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. The specific grounds for rejection, and applicants' response thereto, are set out in detail below.

II. Objection to Specification (Priority) and Sequence Information

The examiner has requested an amendment to the specification to indicate priority information. Applicants have provided an amendment as requested.

The examiner has also noted that FIGS. 6-9 include sequences without reference to sequence identifiers. An appropriate amendment to the specification (FIGS. 6-9 legends) has been provided.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 22, 42 and 68 stand rejected under the first paragraph of §112 as lacking an enabling disclosure. Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been canceled without prejudice. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 65 is rejected under the first paragraph of §112 as lacking enablement for "other VH or VL chains." Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the rejected language has been deleted. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 22, 42 and 68 are rejected under the second paragraph of §112 as allegedly indefinite for the recitation of “CDR-encoding segments” and “CDR-encoding portion.” Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 65 is rejected under the second paragraph of §112 as allegedly indefinite for the recitation of “other VH or VL chains.” Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the rejected language has been deleted.

Claims 22 and 68 are rejected under the second paragraph of §112 as allegedly indefinite for the recitation of “said VH chain” and “said VL chain.” Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claims have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 32 is rejected under the second paragraph of §112 as allegedly indefinite for the recitation of “the VH chain” and “the VL chain.” Applicants traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, the claim has been amended to depend from claim 18, which provides clear antecedent basis for the rejected terms.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the preceding rejections is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Kucherlapati *et al.* in view of Gottlinger

Claims 18, 19, 28-31, 38, 39, 53-55, 65 and 67 remain rejected as obvious over the ‘584 patent in view of Gottlinger. Applicants again traverse, but in the interest of advancing the prosecution, claim 18 has been amended to introduce the limitations of claim 22, which was not rejected. Furthermore, the CDRs of the VH and VL chains have been defined by specific residues from SEQ ID NOS: 141 and 143, thereby addressing §112 issues regarding previous

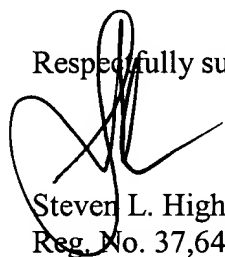
claim 22.¹ Thus, it is believed the subject matter of present claim 18 has already been indicated as non-obvious over the cited references.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should Examiner Helms have any questions regarding this response, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited. Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard as evidence of receipt.

Respectfully submitted,



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¹ Support for the positions of the CDRs within SEQ ID NO. 143 as now recited in the claims can be found in FIG. 7, in combination with the corresponding figure legend on page 19 of the priority application, WO 98/46645, and support for the positions of the CDRs within SEQ ID NO. 141 as now recited in the claims are depicted in FIG. 6, in combination with the corresponding figure legend on page 19 of the priority application, WO 98/46645.